

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Stone Hails State Response in Terrorism Test



Recognizes Contribution of Four Fairfield Firefighters

State Rep. John “Jack” Stone, R-134th, Fairfield, Trumbull, today hailed the response of federal, state, local officials to a terrorism response exercise held April 4-8 in Connecticut, New Jersey, Canada and England.

Rep. Stone who joined the drill in progress April 5, after spending April 4 in committee meetings at the Capitol, said, “It was just incredible to see the level of preparedness and response to what was fortunately merely a test.”

He added, “I came away with enforced confidence in the ability of state, local and federal agencies to respond effectively to a crisis of this magnitude. I’m proud to note that four members of the Connecticut Urban Search and Rescue team are Fairfield firefighters, and their contribution was significant.”

Connecticut hosted the nation’s largest terrorism drill, which included a simulated chemical attack and response that began in the port city of New London. At the same time, a simulated biological incident was staged in New Jersey, along with related exercises in the United Kingdom and Canada. In all, 10,000 people representing more than 200 agencies and volunteer groups participated worldwide.

Rep. Stone said, “Fairfield can commend and be proud of the efforts of Fairfield Fire Lt. Doug Chavenello, Lt. Lee Corbo, Lt. Len Waiksnis and Firefighter Phil Higgins, who train on their own time one weekend a month and other days to be part of the urban search and rescue effort.”

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness sponsored the exercise, called Top Officials 3, or TOPOFF 3. Rep. Stone, who is ranking member of the legislature’s Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee, was invited to observe the exercise.

Rep. Stone also toured the state Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security at the State Armory in Hartford, was briefed on the exercise and monitored its progress.

Rep. Stone serves the 134th Assembly District of Fairfield and Trumbull in the state House of Representatives.